



RISE, *together*

DEEPENING COMMUNITY. NEIGHBORING WELL. RESOURCING LEGACY.

SERIES GUIDE



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WINTER PARK



“Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

Philippians 2:1-4

This Book Belongs to:

LETTER FROM PASTOR DAVID

Dear Church Family,

God is doing something new among us. Over generations, this congregation has been a place of worship, belonging, and transformation. Now, we are being called to take our next faithful step forward—together.

Rise, Together is more than a capital campaign, it's a spiritual invitation to deepen community, neighbor well, and steward our legacy. Through this effort, we will support our regular ministries while also making critical updates to our campus that will welcome future generations into God's story.

This booklet is designed to inspire, inform, and guide you as we walk this journey. Inside, you'll find our history, vision, goals, and practical steps to participate. I pray you will discover how God may be calling you to rise in generosity, service, and faith.

Thank you for being part of this family and for trusting God's leading. The best is yet to come.




In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David R Miller".

Pastor David Miller





In 1923, a 56-foot tower cross became a symbol of faith in the community.

“We stand on 140 years of faithfulness, yet we know God is calling us into a bold new chapter. I believe that the path forward will require us all to give up (sacrifice) a little for the sake of the church family, our neighbors and future generations. Let’s Rise, Together.”

— Pastor David Miller

OUR STORY

Our church is 140 years old—founded before the automobile transformed travel, before women had the right to vote, and even before the Wright brothers took flight. It has stood through world wars, economic depressions and recessions, global pandemics, and seasons of denominational change. From the days just after the Civil War and Reconstruction to today, our church has remained a steadfast witness of faith, adapting to each new era while holding fast to the hope of Christ.

A Legacy of Faith and Community

- Our church was founded in Winter Park, holding its very first worship service.

1885

1895



- Just ten years later, the first sanctuary was completed at the corner of Morse and Interlachen.



1923

- A second, larger sanctuary was built and became our spiritual home for the next 40 years. Its 56-foot tower cross became a symbol of faith that continues today—members still contribute to its lighting in honor or memory of loved ones.

1935



- The Wesleyan Class set a record attendance with 105 people, reflecting the church's rapid growth.



- The Asbury Building was constructed, providing expanded space for ministry and community.

1956

H.W. "Ned" Hastings generously donated property in Indiana to the church, a gift that would later serve as the cornerstone for establishing the FUMCWP Foundation.



- Construction of our current Sanctuary was completed and the first services were joyfully held.

1963

- The Marcy Trust was established, ensuring ongoing support for the church's mission.

1979

1988

1955



- The Methodist School for Early Education opened its doors. Seventy years later, we continue to celebrate its impact on generations of children.

The beloved tradition of the Easter Flower Cross began, bringing beauty and witness each spring.



1974

1980



After renovations and additions to the Wesleyan Building, the courtyard and Susan H. Marcy Chapel were consecrated for worship and fellowship.





- Ground was broken for the Matthias Family Life Center, which officially opened in 2006 as a hub for connection and ministry.

2003–2006



The *Rise, Together* vision was discerned and launched, calling us to deepen community, neighbor well, and resource legacy.

2025

2026 and Beyond



In response to the pandemic, the church pivoted to online worship, finding new ways to remain connected. This photo was the very first service recorded for virtual connection.



Future renovations, repairs, and bold ministry initiatives will continue shaping our witness for generations to come.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

For 140 years, God has been faithful to this church, and now we have the opportunity to shape our ministry for the generations to come.

Rise, Together is a churchwide call to collective action: a spiritual and missional rising that honors where we've been while boldly embracing where God is leading us next. This initiative invites us to grow in unity, deepen community, love our neighbors well, and invest in the future God is preparing.

OUR PRIMARY GOAL

100% Engagement

Through *Rise, Together*, we will fund three key priorities:

DEEPENING COMMUNITY

During various meetings and conversations, including home gatherings and visioning events, we heard the desire of our church family to gather weekly in fellowship. To make this possible, we plan to create a centrally located Welcome Center, relocate the nursery for easier access to the sanctuary, and enclose the courtyard as a bright, climate-controlled hub for connection. We will also revitalize the playground to nurture joy for our children and strengthen ties with preschool families.

NEIGHBORING WELL

We believe that loving our neighbors is central to our mission. This goal focuses on building deeper partnerships with five local organizations that serve children and youth. A key part of this vision is revitalizing our kitchen in the Matthias Family Life Center. Closed during Covid, it will be upgraded with new equipment and supported by a Hospitality Director to oversee safety and train volunteers. We envision our kitchen hosting community gatherings, children and youth events, and fellowship opportunities where people can cook and share together.

RESOURCING LEGACY

This phase of the campaign addresses essential repairs across our Winter Park campus, including new roofs and important updates to the sanctuary's lighting, stained-glass windows, and HVAC systems.

OUR GOD-SIZED SECONDARY GOAL

\$7.2 Million in Two Years

Rise, Together is a one-fund campaign which means every gift supports both our regular operating budget for 2026 and 2027, plus forward-looking projects that will help us thrive in the years ahead. Together, we trust God to provide through the generosity and faithfulness of our church family.



OPERATING BUDGET

\$4.2 Million
(2026 + 2027)



RISE, TOGETHER INITIATIVES

\$3 Million



DEEPENING COMMUNITY – \$1,030,000

- New Welcome Center and nursery relocation: \$250,000
- Enclosed courtyard gathering space: \$650,000
- Revitalized playground: \$130,000

NEIGHBORING WELL – \$150,000

- Kitchen revitalization and staff coordination: \$150,000

RESOURCING LEGACY – \$1,820,000

- Roof replacements across campus: \$1,300,000
- Sanctuary lighting and electrical upgrades: \$250,000
- New sanctuary windows: \$220,000
- HVAC repairs: \$50,000



WHY ARE WE DOING THIS NOW?

A HOME WITHOUT A SUSTAINABLE PLAN

For more than 25 years, we have not carried the full cost of maintaining all the facilities we enjoy. Today, the reality is unavoidable: the ongoing expenses of operating our campuses—including utilities, insurance, maintenance, and staffing—continue to grow each year. Without a long-term plan to sustain this “home base,” we risk falling behind in caring for the spaces that enable ministry, worship, and community impact. *Rise, Together* is our opportunity to secure a sustainable future for these sacred places.



A WITNESS OF DISREPAIR AND DISUNITY

Our buildings and schedules tell a story. When facilities fall into disrepair, they unintentionally communicate neglect rather than hospitality. Likewise, the gap between our 9:00 and 11:00 services can leave us feeling more like two congregations than one church family. If we are to reflect the love and unity of Christ, our physical spaces and worship rhythms must embody that same witness.

LOSING FOCUS ON OUR NEIGHBOR

When our attention turns inward, toward what is most comfortable, we risk losing sight of the very neighbors God calls us to love. What we prioritize, what we talk about, and what we assume all shape the story we are telling. The *Rise, Together* campaign is a chance to realign our focus outward, ensuring that our facilities, conversations, and commitments speak to all generations and extend welcome to those not yet here. Now is the time to *Rise, Together* and invest in the future God has for us.



Inua Pilgrimage



SOUL Student Mission Trip



Agua Viva Serves Trip

FAQS

What is a one-fund campaign?

Rise, Together is a “one-fund” initiative, which means every gift supports both our regular operating budget (for 2026–2027) and our future-facing projects (like repairs, renovations, and new gathering spaces). This approach keeps us united in one vision instead of dividing gifts between multiple funds.

Can I see plans and speak into the renovation projects?

Absolutely! We welcome your feedback, participation, and questions. As projects move forward, updates will be posted on our website at fumcwp.org. You can also share your thoughts anytime by emailing info@fumcwp.org.

How long is the campaign?

Commitments are for a two-year period, beginning in 2026 and continuing through 2027.

Can I give in ways other than cash?

Yes! Many people choose to give through stock, retirement distributions, property, or other assets. If you'd like to explore these options, our finance team would be happy to assist. Email finance@fumcwp.org to learn more.

What if my financial situation changes?

We understand life circumstances can shift. Your commitment is not a contract—it's a statement of intent before God. If your situation changes, you can adjust your giving at any time.

STEWARDSHIP RESOURCES WITH TRANSPARENCY

As a church family, we believe that financial stewardship is not just about numbers; it is about trust, accountability, and mission. That is why this booklet includes a clear picture of both our income and our expenses. By sharing these details, we want to practice full transparency and invite you to see how your giving makes ministry possible.

These pages show how gifts and resources flow into our church from a variety of sources, and how they are faithfully invested back into ministry, outreach, and the care of our community. Having this information helps us plan wisely, steward well, and ensure that every dollar entrusted to us is used to further God's Kingdom work.

We believe generosity is best expressed when it is coupled with clarity. Your commitment is part of a larger story, one that balances vision with responsibility and faith with good stewardship. Together, we are resourcing the mission God has given us and building a foundation that will sustain ministry for years to come.

FUMCWP OVERALL BUDGET

OVERALL BUDGET	2026	2027	TOTAL
General Offering (pledged and unpledged)	\$2.1M	\$2.1M	\$4.2M
Other Income	\$3.3M	\$3.4M	\$6.7M
Marcy Income	\$200K	\$200K	\$400K
Foundation Income	\$400K	\$400K	\$800K
<i>Rise, Together</i> Capital Income	\$1.5M	\$1.5M	\$3.0M
Total Income	\$7.5M	\$7.6M	\$15.1M

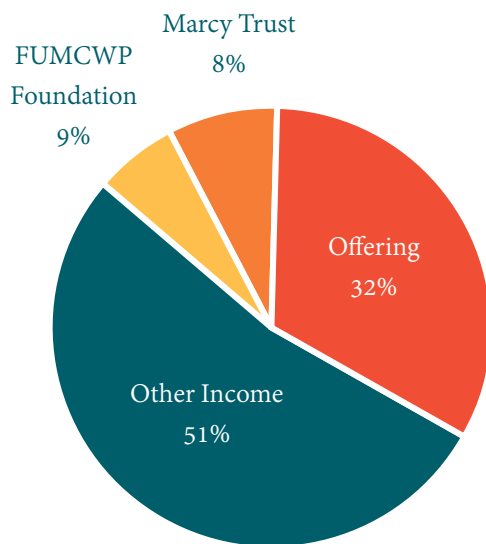
FUMCWP EXPENSES BUDGET

EXPENSES BUDGET	2026	2027	TOTAL
Vibrant Family Expenses	\$470K	\$490K	\$1.0M
Preschool Salaries/Benefits Expenses	\$1.9M	\$1.9M	\$3.9M
Gracious Host Expenses	\$720K	\$730K	\$1.5M
Passionate Seeker Expenses	\$14K	\$15K	\$29K
Christ-Like Servant Expenses	\$530K	\$550K	\$1.0M
Facility Expenses	\$700K	\$710K	\$1.4M
<i>Rise, Together</i> Expenses	\$1.5M	\$1.5M	\$3.0M
Administrative Expenses	\$850K	\$880K	\$1.7M
Clergy Salaries/Benefits Expenses	\$600K	\$630K	\$1.2M
Apportionments Expenses	\$225K	\$230K	\$455K
Total Expenses	\$7.5M	\$7.6M	\$15.1M

*Figures have been rounded for ease of presentation.

SOURCES OF INCOME FOR FUMCWP BUDGET

Each year, our church receives income from four major sources.



OFFERING

Our first source of income is the offering, received through Sunday giving and online contributions. In 2026 and 2027, offerings are budgeted at **\$2.1M** and **\$2.1M**.

OTHER INCOME

Other income comes from ministry services such as our two preschools and Brain Fitness tuition, youth retreat fees, Inua prayer partnerships, and bank interest, totaling about **\$3.3M annually**.

MARCY TRUST

The Marcy Trust, founded by Mrs. Susan H. Marcy, an active member until her death in 1979, provides about \$500,000 in annual income to our church. While we are the primary beneficiary, we are not the only recipients, and the trust is not owned by our church. We must apply for grants, and funds cannot be used for recurring expenses such as staff salaries. Honoring Mrs. Marcy's love of music, the trust supports the Marcy Singers and Festival Gloria each year. It has also funded youth mission trips, adult pilgrimages, Brain Fitness Academy, 4 Pillars Counseling & Enrichment Center, pledge matching, and multiple building projects.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

Our church has its own Foundation, started through the generous giving of H. W. "Ned" Hastings. It holds **\$6.8M** with **\$2.8M** in unrestricted funds and **\$4M** restricted for specific purposes (for example, \$150K for roof repairs and \$850K from the parsonage sale reserved for pastoral housing). Restricted funds cannot be used for general ministries.

Key Considerations:

- Each year, over **\$400,000** from the Foundation is transferred to our general budget to cover operating costs. For the Winter Park Campus alone, these costs total about **\$700,000**, including utilities, insurance, and maintenance.
- According to a maintenance schedule provided by an outside firm, we can expect **\$2M** in repairs on our Winter Park campus in the next 10 years.
- Our facilities have not been fully funded through offerings for at least 25 years.
- Continued reliance on the Foundation risks depleting the **\$2.8M** in unrestricted funds, reducing its ability to support future operating costs.



Sanctuary Upgrades and Window Repairs

Welcome Center/Nursery Relocation

Enclosed Courtyard

HVAC Repairs

Roof Replacements Campus-Wide

HVAC Repairs

Revitalized Playground

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

What Is God Calling You to Do?

READ AND ENGAGE

in the campaign materials provided.

PARTICIPATE

in *Rise, Together* events and worship services. We want 100% of our members engaged as we talk about what God is doing so we can take a step of faith together as a church.

PRAY

and ask God to show you what part he intends for you to play in *Rise, Together*. We know that He is faithful and will lead us to place that brings Him glory.

DISCUSS

your commitment to *Rise, Together* as a family. God works powerfully through conversation and commitment.

CONSIDER

taking a step of faith and turn in a commitment card on November 16.
God is leading our church to take a bold step of faith.



RISE, *together*

DEEPENING COMMUNITY. NEIGHBORING WELL. RESOURCING LEGACY.

At the heart of this season is an invitation: to rise in faith and to rise together as the body of Christ. Over the next six weeks, we will reflect on what it means to place Christ at the center, to grow in community, to serve our neighbors, and to steward the legacy we have received. Each theme draws us back to the truth that faith is not a solitary path. We are strongest when we rise side by side.

As we open the scriptures, we will discover how God is shaping us, stretching us, and calling us into deeper life with Him and with one another.

The following pages provide space to engage more fully with the *Rise, Together* sermon series. Bring this journal with you to worship each week, and let it guide your reflections, your prayers, and your conversations at home.

SERMON SERIES

Sunday, October 12

Week 1: FUMCWP Vision

Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-16

Sunday, October 19

Week 2: Lordship of Christ

Scripture: Ephesians 2:19-22

Sunday, October 26

Week 3: Deepening Community

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-4

Sunday, November 2

Week 4: Neighboring Well

Scripture: John 13:34-35

Sunday, November 9

Week 5: Resourcing Legacy

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 29:10-16

Sunday, November 16

Week 6: Commit Together

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Week 1: FUMCWP Vision

Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-16

SERMON NOTES:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR EACH WEEK:

What does this passage say about God?

What does it say about us as human beings?

What does it say about our relationship with God?

WHY COMMITMENTS MATTER?

Commitments are more than numbers on a card, they are spiritual milestones on our journey of faith. When we prayerfully decide and write down our financial commitment, we are moving from good intentions to faithful action.

COMMITMENTS DEMONSTRATE TRUST

By pledging what we purposefully decide, we acknowledge that God is our provider and we step out in faith, trusting He will supply what we cannot see now. A written commitment gives form and purpose to our trust.

COMMITMENTS UNITE US AS ONE BODY

Every commitment reflects our unity and our desire to Rise, Together. When we commit together, we *Rise, Together*, affirming we are partners in God's mission.

COMMITMENTS ENABLE WISE PLANNING

Because commitments are known ahead of time, our leadership can steward resources responsibly by budgeting with clarity and confidence. This forward visibility turns generosity into sustainable ministry impact.

COMMITMENTS DEEPEN OUR DISCIPLESHIP

Generosity is not about what God wants from us; it's about what He wants for us. Commitments shape our hearts, aligning us more closely with His purposes.

COMMITMENTS LEAVE A LEGACY

When we commit, we help build a foundation for future generations, ensuring that ministry continues, that hope is extended, and that the gospel is advanced. Our giving becomes part of something bigger than ourselves.

Week 2: Lordship of Christ

Scripture: Ephesians 2:19-22

SERMON NOTES:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR EACH WEEK:

What does this passage say about God?

What does it say about us as human beings?

What does it say about our relationship with God?

GENEROSITY JOURNEY

Giving is more than a transaction. It is an act of worship that shapes our hearts, strengthens our faith, and reflects our trust in God.

Each of us is on a journey of responding to His grace with open hands and willing hearts. Below, you'll find a framework that describes stages of generosity. We invite you to prayerfully reflect on where you are today and where God may be calling you to grow.



An Initial Giver

is someone who decides to give for the first time, out of a response to God's Word about giving. This is someone who decides to give something and trust God and the leaders of the Church with this gift.

(2 Corinthians 8:7-15)



A Consistent Giver

is someone who decides to give something and to give it on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of giving on a regular basis. Often, someone who decides to make their gift an online recurring gift will be someone who is learning the behavior of consistency.

(2 Corinthians 9:6-8)



An Intentional Giver

is someone who is beginning to think about their giving in relation to other things on which they spend their money. This giver starts to make their giving an intentional choice that reflects how they prioritize it in relation to other things they spend their money on.

(Luke 14:28-35)



A Lifetime Giver

is someone who is thinking about the longer tail of generosity rather than just the shorter term of month-to-month generosity or even year-to-year. A Lifetime Giver makes decisions in the short term that have longer term effects as it relates to their generosity capacity. A Lifetime Giver might be someone who has a lifetime giving goal, something that will govern their larger-ticket decisions. Much like a Sacrificial Giver makes a commitment that will govern his/her monthly and annual decisions, a Lifetime Giver makes a lifetime or longer-term giving commitment that governs his/her larger-item purchases like homes, cars, investments, and the like.

(1 Timothy 6:6-19)



A Sacrificial Giver

is someone who recognizes the cost that Christ paid on the cross for us and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. A Sacrificial Giver is someone who gives in a way that changes them, in a way that reflects that their giving is governing their spending/saving rather than their spending/saving governing their giving.

(Colossians 1:15-18, 22-23)

Week 3: Deepening Community

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-4

SERMON NOTES:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR EACH WEEK:

What does this passage say about God?

What does it say about us as human beings?

What does it say about our relationship with God?

WAYS TO GIVE

Your generosity can leave a lasting legacy, and there are many meaningful ways to give that extend beyond traditional gifts, each one helping to shape the future of our church and community.



Donor Advised Funds (DAF)



Mutual Funds



Trusts



Gifts in Will



IRA Distributions
(Including Required Minimum
Distributions for those 73 and older)



Annuities



Stocks



Life Insurance Gifts



Property

For more information, contact our Finance Team at finance@fumcwp.org.

Week 4: Neighboring Well

Scripture: John 13:34-35

SERMON NOTES:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR EACH WEEK:

What does this passage say about God?

What does it say about us as human beings?

What does it say about our relationship with God?

COMMITMENT GUIDE

Commitment Card sample:

Current yearly giving goes here.

 **RISE, together**

\$	2,600	What I/We Currently Give in One Year
	x2	
Currently Giving Over Two Years (amount above times two)	\$	5,200
	+	
My/Our Expanded Rise, Together Commitment <small>Total to be given from Jan. 2026 – Dec. 2027</small>	\$	5,200
	+	
Gifts/Stored Resources (savings, property, stocks, etc.)	\$	5,000
	=	
My/Our Total Commitment to the Rise, Together Campaign	\$	15,400
Name: Sample Family		
Phone: 123-456-7890		
Email: samplefamily@gmail.com		

Multiply by 2, it's a two-year commitment.

This sample family is increasing their regular giving 100%. That number goes here.

Stored resources or additional gifts go here.

Add current giving times 2 plus expanded giving, plus stored resources, and you get the estimated giving over the next two years.

On **Commitment Sunday, November 16**, everyone in the church will be given the opportunity to turn in a commitment card for a two-year financial commitment. This commitment is for your total giving; including what you regularly give plus any “expanded giving” you will give toward the *Rise, Together* Initiative.

COMMIT ONLINE:

You can also submit your commitment online at fumcwp.org/commit.

Week 5: Resourcing Legacy

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 29:10-16

SERMON NOTES:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR EACH WEEK:

What does this passage say about God?

What does it say about us as human beings?

What does it say about our relationship with God?

Dear Church Family,

The challenge before us is a large one. This gift profile shows how it will be possible for us to secure our goal for Rise, Together. The chart reveals that even with the large task God has given us, it is possible to move forward. It also shows that every commitment makes a difference.

As you look at the guide, your eyes will likely settle first on the level you have been considering for Rise, Together. You can see how that commitment will strengthen our faith family and enable us to press forward with our vision. However, before you make a commitment on Commitment Sunday, I would ask you to pray about moving at least one line up on the chart. Only you know if that step is possible, but I encourage you to open your heart in the coming days to that possibility and let God shape your response.

—Pastor David

Two-Year Gift Guide

NUMBER OF COMMITMENTS	TOTAL 2 YEAR COMMITMENT	MONTHLY	WEEKLY
1	\$750,000	\$31,250	\$7,212
2	\$500,000	\$20,833	\$4,808
4	\$250,000	\$10,417	\$2,404
7	\$100,000	\$4,167	\$962
12	\$75,000	\$3,125	\$721
15	\$50,000	\$2,083	\$481
18	\$36,000	\$1,500	\$346
18	\$24,000	\$1,000	\$231
20	\$18,000	\$750	\$173
20	\$12,000	\$500	\$115
25	\$9,600	\$400	\$92
25	\$4,800	\$200	\$46
25	\$2,400	\$100	\$23
Other	Many	Under \$200	
			TOTAL: \$7,200,000

Reminder to Update Church Profile

After you submit your commitment, our finance team will record your pledge in your church profile. Please note that this step is for your pledge record only. To fulfill your commitment, you will need to set up or adjust your giving method directly—whether online or through your financial institution. For security and privacy, our team is not able to make changes to your actual payment arrangements with your bank or card provider.

Week 6: Commit Together

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30


SERMON NOTES:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR EACH WEEK:

What does this passage say about God?

What does it say about us as human beings?

What does it say about our relationship with God?



Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more
than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that
is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and
in Christ Jesus throughout all generations,
for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21



DEEPENING COMMUNITY. NEIGHBORING WELL. RESOURCING LEGACY.



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